

Stephanie Kost

From: Alexander E. Wehr [awehr@LearnLink.Emory.Edu]  
Sent: Saturday, August 07, 2004 9:12 AM  
To: KAQuinn  
Subject: request revision of the "Plug and Play" hearing.

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

To whom it may concern.

I urgently request revision of your ruling on Plug and Play standards regarding Digital Cable and Satellite providers, which rob me of my fair use rights, and will effectively break my current television set!

I have been looking forward to building my computer, which already serves as my stereo and dvd player, into an incorporated entertainment center and personal video recorder, but thanks to your ruling, which calls for hollywood mandated encryption readable only by DTV and "digitally locked" devices, My Rights To Use My Computer As An HDTV and VCR Have Been Stolen.

The only allowances i see outlined for computing devices require recording of HDTV via inflexible, proprietary, and restrictive DRM laden formats. The computer is not a "piracy machine", it has infinite potential uses, and provides the abilities to compress, transform, excerpt, and manipulate recordings; abilities which these corrupt standards you have approved have stolen from me, the average consumer, by the allowance for these encryption and DRM requirements.

I want to know why, after spending thousands on a computer which should be capable of serving their function, i should be forced to spend yet thousands more on a separate "plug and play compliant" "digital cable ready " HDTV, and yet more on a "digital cable ready dvd recorder". Why am i going to be treated like a thief, and denied the right to choose the most flexible tool for fair use, my computer.

Why Should I be so penalized because hollywood is afraid of the personal computer, attacking it like the vcr before it, and in so doing degrading the honest consumer by treating him like a thief.

I want answers! I want to know why my computer is being seriously hindered, stripped of a major function, all because of illogical and luddite paranoia of hollywood copyright interests about p2p distribution of what is already distributed to millions of people via the cable lines in the first place. Why should such draconian anticonsumer restriction be allowed to corrupt cable and satellite tv standards when the MPAA itself admits it will not stop the pirates it so hates.

I want to know why the FCC is allwing hollywood to use unfair pressure on electronics creators to step over the head of congress, which struck down a bill aimed to instate the exact same mandatory drm and encryption restrictions. I want to know why the FCC is not guarding fair competition by preventing hollywood from excercising unfair control over standards it should have no part in.

I want the FCC to restore my right to choose what device I want to watch and record digital cable and satellite with, and what format i want to use for that personal recording, not what hollywood interests want me to use.

I urge the FCC to remove requirements for encryption and DRM in cable and satellite standards which are designed specifically to unfairly lock out the PC as a functional television and recording device.

I ask this logical question, why should i upgrade to higher quality hd cable or satellite if it involves complete and utter trampling of my recording and fair use rights, and the complete destruction of my freedom of choice.

I thank you for your time,

Alexander E. Wehr.

Noted for review 0  
LH/ESD